

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2703

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT

SUBJECT: ARREST OF ARMY OFFICER FOR LINKS WITH SUBVERSIVE RIGHT-
WING GROUP

REFS: ROME 0467; ROME 13003

1. LT COLONEL AMOS SPIAZZI, OFFICER OF ARTILLERY UNIT STATIONED IN VERONA, ARRESTED JANUARY 13 FOR SUBVERSIVE ASSOCIATION DIRECTED AGAINST THE STATE. SPIAZZA'S ARREST IS TIED IN WITH JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION PROCEEDING AGAINST EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY NEO-FASCIST ORGANIZATION "ROSA DEI VENTI". THE EXISTENCE AND EXTRAVAGANT PLOTS OF THIS FRINGE GROUP FOR A FASCIST COUP INVOLVING THE ELIMINATION OF A LONG LIST OF PROMINENT PUBLIC FIGURES (EVEN INCLUDING FAR RIGHT MSI PARTY CHIEF ALMIRANTE) WERE DISCOVERED IN LATE OCTOBER AND LED TO THE ARREST OF SEVERAL PERSONS IN GENOA, PADUA AND VIAREGGIO, INCLUDING A GENOA MSI PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR.

2. INVESTIGATIONS OF EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY RIGHT PLOTS, THE MUCH TOUTED "TRAME NERE" (BLACK PLOTS), ARE PROCEEDING IN MANY PLACES AND AGAINST VARIOUS GROUPS. THESE INVESTIGATIONS LED TO THE OUT-LAWING OF THE EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY RIGHT WING ORDINE NUOVO MOVEMENT (ROME 13003) ON NOVEMBER 22 AND MAY LEAD TO A LIKE ACTION AGAINST THE SIMILAR GROUPING, AVANGUARDIA NAZIONALE.

3. COMMENT: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF COLONEL SPIAZZI'S ARREST

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(REPORTEDLY THE FIRST SUCH ARREST FOR SUBVERSION SINCE WW II

INVOLVING A HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICER) IS THAT IT FUELS THE CAMPAIGN OF THE LEFT WING PRESS WARNING OF THE EXISTENCE OF NEO-FASCIST INFLUENCE AND SYMPATHIZERS IN THE POLICE, ARMED FORCES AND FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ARGUING THE NEED TO ROOT THEM OUT. EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY LEFT GROUPINGS LIKE LOTTA CONTINUA ARE ALREADY CARRYING THIS ARGUMENT ONE STEP FURTHER AND, LIKE THE ITT BOMBERS IN ROME NOVEMBER 11 (ROME 0467), CONTENDING THAT RIGHT WING PLOTTING DIRECTLY INVOLVES THE US (IN THIS CASE, THROUGH ITALY'S NATO LINK). THE EMBASSY IS PREPARING AN AIRGRAM REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY RIGHT AND ON THE GOVERNMENT'S INCREASED WILLINGNESS IN RECENT MONTHS TO CRACK DOWN ON THEM. VOLPE

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